

## **“Improving Your Chances for Federal Funding in Small Communities”**

### **Meeting Notes**

**November 14, 2002**

**Brownfields 2002, Charlotte, North Carolina**

#### **Funding and Technical Assistance Resource Tips:**

- Search for unusual/atypical sources of money such as FEMA/USCG/USDA.
- Work on getting Federal/State earmarks through legislation.
- Check with State environmental and economic development agencies for State grants, loans and technical assistance.
- Use state bonds funding a state brownfields program.
- Get funding for the project in pieces w/different agencies (i.e. Use small grants and loans for each part of the project).
- Use taxing authority (abatement & levy); Ex: EZ/ECs, TIF, Brownfields incentives-Federal Tax Payer Relief Act.
- Apply development fees to brownfields cleanup and redevelopment projects.
- Partner across jurisdictional lines.
- Have groups of businesses apply for loans; Ex. SBA loans to clusters of small businesses.
- Partner with university planning or environmental departments, etc. (i.e. students as cheap labor and free publicity—interns, master’s projects, etc.).
- Contact your local cooperative extension for technical assistance.
- Develop a wide variety of contacts – outside your usual suspects.
- Approach local utilities for support/match/coordination.
- Use tax credits; Ex. statewide redevelopment program.
- Use historic preservation programs.
- Find creative ways for matching funds; Ex. bottle/can deposit.
- Use property as collateral for match.
- Work with banks with Community Reinvestment Act funds.
- Use tobacco settlement money (where applicable).
- Use casino revenues (where applicable).
- Use lottery revenues (where applicable).

#### **Proposal Writing Tips**

- Read directions for application carefully to ensure you know exactly what is required.
- Do not make assumptions of reviewers.
- Avoid jargon and acronyms.
- Do not just reiterate buzzwords.
- Be innovative.
- Be passionate but realistic.
- Be specific: I would like \$\_\_ in order to do\_\_\_\_\_.
- Carefully check grammar, spelling, and typos.
- Ask someone else to review it.

## Sources of funding and technical assistance:

### Federal Agencies

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA):**  
*Funding for housing in small communities; Rural Business Development Grant for small businesses; rural utilities funds; rural housing funds; rural business and industry funds; technical assistance; rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.*  
U.S. Forest Service- technical assistance, Urban and Community Forestry program.  
Urban Resources Partnership- funding and technical assistance to education and restoration efforts for community-based projects.
- **U.S. Department of Commerce:**  
Economic Development Administration (EDA)- planning grants/assistance; infrastructure grants; technical assistance; revolving loan funds; help for economically distressed communities.  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)- Coastal Resource Coordinator Program- assessment and remediation of contaminated coastal sites; Coastal Zone Management Program-funds and tech assistance for feasibility studies, site assessments and master plan development.
- **U.S. Department of Defense:**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- technical engineering assistance; dredging; Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).
- **U.S. Department of Energy (DOE):**  
Brightfields/renewable energy development, Rebuild America program.
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):**  
*Pilot programs; assessment grants; Revolving Loan Fund; Clean up; Job training; Targeted assistance grants; Environmental Justice grants; Brownfields Technical Assistance to Brownfields program; Revolving Loan Funds.*
- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):**  
*Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); Section 108; Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) funds; Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.*  
Department of Community Affairs- planning assistance.
- **U.S. Department of the Interior:**  
National Park Service- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance; Urban Park and Recreation Recovery; Federal Lands-to-Parks Program.  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- technical consultation and assistance regarding habitat restoration or protection and ecosystem conservation.

- **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT):**  
*Transportation Outreach Program; funds for recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian projects; funds for ADA compliance; Intermodal Grant Program (parking garage facility, waterfront district); ISTEA/Tea-21.*  
U.S. Coast Guard- Boating Improvement Program (community boat ramp, canoe launch).  
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)- funding and technical assistance to programs to improve interstate highways and affiliated roadways; Transportation and Community System Preservation Pilots; Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program.  
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)- funding and technical assistance to programs encouraging development or rehabilitation of rail infrastructure and technologies.  
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)- funding and technical assistance to local and regional transit initiatives.  
U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD)- technical assistance for port facilities and shipyard revitalization.
- **U.S. General Services Administration:**  
*Federal properties discounted up to 100 percent when transferred to state or local governments through public benefit conveyances.*
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA):**  
*Guaranteed loans, financial management, technical and government-contracting assistance to current and prospective small business owners.*
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):**  
*Flood Management Programs; Emergency Shelters; Mitigation/ Emergency Planning; Assistance to locate outside of floodplain.*

#### **Possible State Resources**

- Revolving Loan Funds
- Site Assessment Funds
- Site Remediation Funds
- Revitalization Funds
- Library Funds
- Historic Preservation/Restoration Funds
- Parks/Recreation/Trails/Open Space/Greenspace Funds
- Purchase of Development Rights programs
- Unique state programs such as Basin Boards Grants from the Florida Water Management Districts

#### **Non-Governmental Resources**

- Large Corporations and Foundations: Ex. Kellogg Foundation (loan fund for high risk business development loans such as youth entrepreneurial development).

- Sports Foundations: Ex. Major League Baseball Field of Dreams, National Soccer Foundation, Women's Sports Foundation, Brownfieldgolf.com, etc.
- Energy Companies: emergency shelter generator donation or loans; help promoting Star Energy programs.
- Greenspace and Recreation Organizations: American Community Gardening Association; American Trails; America Walks; National Center for Bicycling and Walking; National Recreation and Park Association; Trust for Public Land; Rails to Trails Conservancy; Wallace Reader's Digest Funds' Urban Parks Initiative and the Urban Parks Institute, etc.

### **Links to Lists of Funding Sources**

- The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance- <http://www.cfda.gov>
- Kansas Grants Clearinghouse- <http://www.kansasgrants.org>
- The Grantsmanship Center- <http://www.tgci.com>
- Fedworld (Department of Commerce)- <http://www.fedworld.gov>
- Council on Foundations- <http://www.cof.org/links/memberindex.htm>
- The Foundation Center, Grantmaker search- [http://fdncenter.org/funders/grantmaker/gws\\_corp/corp1.html](http://fdncenter.org/funders/grantmaker/gws_corp/corp1.html)
- The Foundation Center, RFP Bulletin- <http://fdncenter.org/pnd/rfp/index.jhtml>
- Internet Prospector, Foundations- <http://www.internet-prospector.org/found.html>
- Thompson and Thompson, Grantmaking Public Charities- <http://www.t-tlaw.com/rs-16.shtml>
- Grantsmart.org- <http://www.grantsmart.org/search/search003.html>
- About, Inc., Nonprofit Charitable Orgs- <http://nonprofit.miningco.com/index.htm>
- Association of Small Foundations- [http://smallfoundations.org/member\\_web\\_pages](http://smallfoundations.org/member_web_pages)
- Grant Select- <http://www.grantselect.com>

### **Online Resources for Proposal/Grant Writing**

- U.S. EPA Grantwriting Tutorial- <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/grants.html>
- CFDA, Developing And Writing Grant Proposals- <http://www.cfda.gov/public/cat-writing.htm>
- The Foundation Center, Proposal Writing Short Course- <http://fdncenter.org/learn/shortcourse/prop1.html>
- Grant help- <http://granthelp.clarityconnect.com/school.htm>
- Grant Proposal.com- <http://www.grantproposal.com/>
- Grantseeking in Minnesota, Writing a Successful Grant Proposal- <http://www.mcf.org/mcf/grant/writing.htm>
- Non-Profit Guides, <http://www.npguides.org/>
- Deborah Kluge, Grantwriting Resources- <http://www.proposalwriter.com/grants.html#Grantwriting>
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Basic Elements of Grantwriting- <http://www.cpb.org/grants/grantwriting.html>